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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

1930

AH
DG
RN

TO : CA/SCS - Mr. Alan A. Gise

DATE: January 16, 1979

FROM : A/BF/OAG - J. Harlan Southerland

SUBJECT: GAO REVIEW: "Use of Federal Funds for Foster Care Children in Guyana" (Congressional Interest)

The attached letter from the Associate Director, International Division, U. S. General Accounting Office, requests the Department's assistance in obtaining certain information in relation to the tragedy in Guyana.

Since the subject concerns matters for which your office has primary responsibility. I would appreciate your designating an action officer to coordinate for the Department. Please advise me of the name of the officer.

It is the Department's policy to be of assistance to the GAO and to be as helpful as possible within the guidelines of 4 FAM 930-934. In the event that questions or problems should arise during the course of the review, particularly regarding GAO access to and/or retention of Department files or documents, please let me know.

Attachment:
As stated

cc: M - Mr. Ben H. Read
A - Mr. John M. Thomas
CA - Ms. Barbara Watson
CA/EX - Mr. Ronald Somerville
H - Mr. Eugene Krizek
L/CA - Mr. Robert Dalton
ARA/CAR - Mr. Ashley Hewitt

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

JAN 15 1979

The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
The Secretary of State

Attention: Director, GAO Liaison Staff

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Chairman of the Subcommittee on Child and Human Development, Senate Committee on Human Resources, has requested the Human Resources Division of the General Accounting Office to investigate immediately the circumstances that surround the use of Federal funds for foster care children placed with the People's Temple of the Disciples of Christ and families who were members of the Temple in Guyana, and the United States.

To carry out this assignment, we would like to meet with appropriate Department of State officials and obtain as soon as possible the confirmed death list of children and their families who lived in Guyana prior to the holocaust, as well as other related background documentation. In addition, we would like to obtain and review certain passport information concerning the deceased children and their families.

At this time, we anticipate that the work will be done in Washington, D.C. and California. If you have any questions concerning this assignment, please contact Mr. Richard Neuman on 245-9623.

Sincerely yours,

Frank C. Conahan

Frank C. Conahan
Associate Director